

While Ms. Browner's words strongly imply an intent to work around Congress, at least she did not join Secretary Babbitt in coming right out and admitting it.

I for one am getting a little sick and tired of watching this Administration force park users out of their parks, steal land from our states and counties, impose costly new regulations on farmers and businesses without scientific justification, and force Congress to become a spectator on many of the most controversial and important issues before the American people.

It's getting to the point where I'm not sure what to tell my constituents. I've been on the phone with snowmobilers in Minnesota and they ask what can be done. I start to explain that because of the filibuster in the Senate and the President's ability to veto, it will be difficult for Congress to take any action. I've found myself saying that a lot lately. Whether it's regulations on Total Maximum Daily Loads, efforts to put 50 million acres of forests in wilderness, or new rules to regulate a worker's house should they choose to work at home, this Administration just doesn't respect the legislative process or the role of Congress. Nor does this Administration respect the jobs, traditions, cultures, of lifestyles of millions of Americans. If you're an American who has yet to be negatively impacted by the actions of this Administration, just wait your turn because you were evidently at the end of the list. Sooner or later, if they get their way in the next few months, they're going to kill your job, render your private property unusable, and ban you from accessing public lands that have been accessible for generations.

Regrettably, many of us in Congress are now left with the proposition of telling our constituents that we must wait for a new Administration. I have to tell them that this Administration is on its way out the door and they're employing a scorched earth exit strategy. And I have to warn them that the situation could get worse if a certain Vice President finds himself residing at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue next year.

I have to admit, there's nothing pleasurable about telling your constituents to wait until next year. I think it's important to remember that, as Senators, we are the representatives of every one of our constituents. When I have to tell a constituent that Con-

gress has lost its power to act on this matter, I'm actually telling that constituent that he or she has lost their power on this matter. When I have to tell a snowmobiler that the Administration doesn't care what Congress has to say about snowmobiling in national parks, I am really telling him or her that the Administration doesn't care what the American people have to say about snowmobiling in national parks. Congress did not get a chance to debate it or to represent the people back home. I doubt any of us could've said that any better than Donald J. Barry said it himself.

When forging public policy, those of us in Congress often have to consider the opinions of the state and local officials who are most impacted. If I'm going to support an action on public land, I usually contact the state and local officials who represent the area to see what they have to say. I know that if I don't get their perspective, I might miss a detail that could improve my efforts. I also know that the local officials can tell me if my efforts are necessary or if they're misplaced. They can alert me to areas where I need to forge a broader consensus and of ways in which my efforts might actually hurt the people I represent. I think that is a prudent way to forge public policy and a fair way to deal with state and local officials.

I know, however, that no one from the Park Service ever contacted me to see how I felt about banning snowmobiling in Park Service units in Minnesota. I was never consulted on snowmobile usage in Minnesota or on any complaints that I might have received from my constituents. While I've not checked with every local official in Minnesota, not one local official has called me to say that the Park Service contacted them. In fact, while I knew the Park Service was considering taking action to curb snowmobile usage in some Parks, I had no idea the Park Service was considering an action so broad, and so extreme, nor did I think they would issue it this quickly. I do not think any local officials thought this would happen. I know those involved in the snowmobile industry had no idea, while talking with this administration, this was going to come down. It was a shot out of the blue.

I believe this quick overreaching by the Park Service was unwarranted. It did not allow time for Federal, State,

or local officials to work together on this issue. It did not bring snowmobile users to the table to discuss the impact of this decision on them. It did not allow time for Congress and the administration to look at all of the available options or to differentiate between parks with heavy snowmobile usage and those with occasional usage. This decision stands as a dramatic example of how not to conduct policy formation and formulation. It is an affront to the consideration American citizens deserve from their elected officials.

I would like to repeat that. This decision stands as a very dramatic example of how not to conduct policy formulation and is an affront to the consideration that I believe American citizens deserve from their elected officials.

I hope we take a hard look at this decision and call the administration before Senate committees for hearings. I believe there has been one scheduled. Senator CRAIG THOMAS, I believe, will be holding such a hearing on May 25 to try to bring some administration officials before Congress and to ask some very simple questions: Why was this action taken? I have long believed we can have an impact on these matters by holding strong oversight hearings and by forcing the administration to be accountable for their actions. We cannot, however, simply stand by and watch as this administration continues its quest, in its final, waning days, for even greater power, power that will come at the expense of the deliberative, legislative process envisioned by the founders of this country.

Secretary Babbitt, Administrator Browner, and Donald J. Barry may believe they are above working with this Congress. But only we can make sure that they are reminded, and we can do it in the strongest possible terms, that when they neglect Congress they are neglecting the American people.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate, under the previous order, stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, May 11, 2000.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:32 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 11, 2000, at 9:30 a.m.